

Francisco Control Cont

Henry Walker (615) 252-2363 Fax: (615) 252-6363

Email: hwalker@boultcummings.com

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October 8, 2002

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THRESULATIONY AUTHORITY DOCKET ROOM

Ron Jones, Director Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243-0505

> Re: In the Matter of Petition Of Tennessee UNE-P Coalition To Open Contested Case Proceeding To Declare Unbundled Switching An Unrestricted Unbundled Network Element

Docket No. 02-00207

Dear Director Jones:

I am writing on behalf of the UNE-P Coalition to you in your capacity as Hearing Officer in the above-captioned proceeding.

We have reviewed the stipulations proposed by BellSouth in the above-captioned proceeding and have concluded that it appears that the parties will not be able to reach agreement on the stipulations.

In summary, the proposed stipulations generally fall into two categories: (1) information about CLEC switch locations and capabilities which, except for information regarding the switches of the Coalition's own members, the Coalition cannot independently confirm, and (2) argumentative assertions that have nothing to do with BellSouth's original data requests.

It appears that BellSouth is asking the Coalition, in effect, to stipulate to BellSouth's entire case. Moreover, while BellSouth has now acknowledged it already has in its possession much of the information it originally requested from the non-party CLECs, information which BellSouth intends to use at the hearing, the Coalition is apparently precluded, absent the ability to take supplemental discovery, from asking BellSouth any questions about the reliability and details of that information.

The Coalition is willing to discuss these matters further at a pre-hearing conference if requested by the Hearing Officer. The Coalition asks that any such conference be scheduled no earlier than Thursday, October 10, 2002.

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Respectfully submitted,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

Henry Walker

HW/nl

c: Joelle Phillips, Esq. Chuck Welch, Esq.